ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

MONTGOMERY BAPTIST

ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

ADAMS STREET CHURCH, MONTGOMERY, ALA.,

OCT. 31st, NOV. 1st & 2d, 1885.

OFFICERS:

B. A. JACKSON,	MODERATOR	Ramah, Ala.
J. I. LAMAR,	CLERK,	Deatsville. Ala.
J. H. DICKSON,	TREASURER,	Pine Level, Ala.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
THE ALABAMA BAPTIST PRINT,
1885.

NAMES AND POST-OFFICES OF MINISTERS.

B. A. Jackson,.....Ramah,.....Ala,
J. W. Orme,.....Pugh, "
M. B. Wharton, D. D.,.....Montgomery, "
M. M. Wamboldt,.....Montgomery, "
J. J. Cloud,.....Wetumpka, "
F. C. Waite,.....Montgomery, "
J. C. McLendon,.....Ramah, "
John Langridge.....Montgomery, "
J. T. Brooks, ...licentiate,.....Montgomery, "

ASSOCIATION DISTRICTS.

First District.—Wetumpka, Deatsville, Mt. Hebron, Bethany, Unity.

Second District.—Pine Level, Mt. Lebanon, Mt. Zion, Liberty Elim.

Third District—First Montgomery, Adams Street, Ramah, Bethesda, Philadelphia, Friendship.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Association called to order by Moderator.
2. Appoint Committee on Credentials.
3. Introductory Sermon.
4. Appoint Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
5. Receive Correspondence and Visitors.
6. Receive petitions from Churches desiring membership.
7. Appoint committee to report during session—
   - On Religious Exercises,
   - On Finance and Auditing,
   - On Documents and Requests,
   - On Nominations.
8. Read Rules of Order.
9. Hear Reports from Committees and Treasurer.
10. Return Correspondence.
11. Appoint Committees to report next meeting—
    - On Home and State Missions,
    - On Foreign Missions,
    - On Sabbath Schools,
    - On Temperance,
    - On Education,
    - On Bible and Colportage,
    - On Indigent Ministers.
12. Hear Miscellaneous Business.
13. Call roll and erase absentees.
14. Arrange for printing Minutes.
15. Correct Minutes and adjourn.

MINUTES.

The Fourth Annual Session of the Montgomery Baptist Association was held with Adams Street Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama, commencing Saturday October 30, 1885, at 11 A. M.

The former Moderator being absent, the body was called to order by J. I. Lamar, the former Clerk.

Prayer by Elder A. Andrews.

Elder B. A. Jackson was called to the chair.

Appointed E. J. Harris, M. A. Pyron, D. J. Moore, Committee on Credentials.

The delivery of the Introductory sermon postponed until to-night 7:30 o'clock.

Committe on Credentials reported delegates from the churches, as follows :

First Montgomery—M. B. WHARTON, T. L. Jones, W. B. Davidson, J. Bullock, Wm. A. Davis, H. A. Howard, G. W. Ellis, J. F. Joseph, W. Gamble, B. F. Noble, S. L. Alexander, J. F. Dennis, W. C. Ray, J. C. Stratford, W. L. Chandler, W. G. Wharton, W. M. Nalls, Berry Tatum, C. B. Ferrell.

Adams Street—W. M. WAMBOLDT, F. C. WAITE, J. F. Robertson, L. Nickel, W. M. Franks, G. B. Burks, A. E. Coupee.

Bethesda—Letter; no delegates.

Pine Level—J. D. Wright, E. J. Harris.

Mt. Lebanon—J. W. ORME.

Ramah—B. A. JACKSON, J. R. McLendon, W. R. Waller.

Elem—Not represented.

Salem—F. C. WAITE, A. B. Brassel.

Bethany—W. P. Dawson, J. S. Turner.

Wetumpka—J. J. CLOUD.

Deatsville—J. I. Lamar, M. A. Pyron, W. M. Loften.

Mt. Hebron—R. James, Miss J. Hogan, Miss L. Spigener.

Unity—D. J Moore, Mrs. S. A. Smith.

Friendship—(Elmore) *G. M. Harrington.*

Liberty—Not represented.

Mt. Zion—P. O. Spear, J. S. Smith.

Philadelphia—Letter; no delegates.

Friendship—(Montgomery) F. A. Curtis, T. M. Harris, W. G. Sullivant.

The Association proceeded to elect officers, J. W. Orme J. Bullock, acting tellers; resulting in the choice of Elder B. A. Jackson, Moderator, J. I. Lamar, Clerk, J. H. Dickson, Treasurer.

FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Visiting ministers were invited to seats. Dr. T. M. Bailey, Elders A. Andrews H. R. Schramm, and G. W. McQueen were present.

Friendship Church, Montgomery county, was received into the membership of the Association. by letter, from Salem Association.

Appointed the following Committees:

On Religious Exercises—E. J. Harris, W. A. Davis, with pastor and deacons of Adams Street Church.

Called for correspondence and received from—

Unity Association—Elder A. Andrews.

Eufaula—Elder H. R. Schramm.

Tallapoosa River—F. M. Flanagan, W. M. Robinson.

Alabama—Elders G. W. McQueen, F. C. Plaster and Brethren S. A. Saterwhite, W. P. Bullock.

Troy—W. H. Barnett.

Dr. T. M. Bailey, Secretary of Mission Board was received in his official capacity.

Package of Minutes of Baptist State Convention, was received.

On motion, reading the rules of order, was omitted.

Committee on Religious Exercises, selected Elder F. C. Plaster to preach on the Sabbath at 11 a. m., at First Baptist Church, Montgomery; Dr. T. M. Bailey, at Adams Street Baptist Church at 11 a. m.

By unanimous request of the Association, Elder W. M. Wamboldt consented to preach at Adams Street Church on Sabbath night, at 7:30 o'clock. Sabbath School mass meeting will be held at Adams Street Baptist Church at 3 o'clock p. m.

Appointed hours of meeting—9:30 a. m. to 12:30; meet at 3 p. m. and adjourn at pleasure; meet at 7-30.

Adjourned until 3 p. m.

Prayer by Elder G. W. McQueen.

EVENING PROCEEDINGS—3 P. M.

The Association met and resumed business.

Prayer by Dr. T. M. Bailey.

Appointed the following committees:

Finance and Auditing—A. E. Coupee, J. Bullock, J. R. McLendon.

Documents and Requests—W. A. Davis, W. R. Waller, G. B. Burks.

Nominations—G. W. Ellis, E. J. Harris, M. A. Pyron, D. J. Moore, J. D. Wright.

Select Place of Holding Next Session—W. Gamble, F. A. Curtis, W. J. Taylor, W. P. Dawson.

Report of Committee on Foreign Missions was read and the whole subject of missions made the special order for Monday morning 10 o'clock.

The subjects Bible and Colportage work was made the order for 3 p. m.,

Monday; Education at 4 p. m.; Temperance and Indigent Ministers at night.

Report of Treasurer was read and referred to Committee on Finance and Auditing.

The resolution allowing delegates in districts to select place of holding Association, was repealed.

Returned Correspondence, and appointed to

Alabama Association--J. W. Orme, E. J. Harris, B. A. Jackson.

Unity--J. J. Cloud, J. I. Lamar, M. B. Wharton, D. J. Moore.

Tallapoosa River--M. B. Wharton, J. J. Cloud, W. P. Dawson.

Eufaula—M. B. Wharton, Wm. A. Davis, B. A. Jackson.

Centennial--B. A. Jackson, E. J. Harris, J. D. Wright, J. H. Dickson.

Salem—J. W. Orme, E. J. Harris, B. A. Jackson.

Troy—E. J. Harris, B. A. Jackson, T. M. Harris, J. R. McLendon, J. H. Dickson, J. D. Wright.

State Convention—M. B. Wharton, B. A. Jackson, Wm. A. Davis, J. J. Cloud, J. W. Orme, F. C. Waite, J. I. Lamar, J. R. McLendon, M. A. Pyron, W. R. Waller.

In order of business, Nos. 5 and 8 were changed to read—

"Receive Correspondents and visitors."

Adjourned until 7:30 p. m.

Prayer by Dr. M. B. Wharton.

NIGHT'S PROCEEDINGS.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

The Introductory Sermon was preached at night by Elder J. J. Cloud, text: I Corrinthians 3:9, "Ye are God's building." Subject Christ the Great Architect.

SABBATH'S PROCEEDINGS—Nov. 1, 1885.

As arranged, Elder F. C. Plaster preached at 11 a. m., at First Baptist Church, Montgomery, and Dr. T. M. Bailey at Adams Street Baptist Church at 11 a. m. Sabbath School Mass Meeting at 3 p. m. At night Elder W. M. Wamboldt, preached at Adams Street Baptist Church.

MONDAY'S PROCEEDINGS--9:30 A. M.

Monday at 9-30 a. m. the Association met and resumed business.

Prayer by Elder J. J. Cloud.

Read the minutes of Saturdays proceedings.

Called the roll and corrected list of delegates.

Professor Frazer, Principal of Judson Female Institute, was invited to a seat.

The Treasurer being absent, Brother E. J. Harris was appointed *pro tem.*

Dr. M. B. Wharton was appointed to prepare the report on Education.

Report on Home and State Missions read. After discussing the subject of Missions the reports were adopted as follows:

REPORT ON HOME AND STATE MISSIONS.

The Home Mission Board during the present year has, under the blessings of God accomplished more than in any other one year of its labors.

Many desert places have been made to blossom as the rose through its labors, in Arkansas, Lousiana, Florida, Texas, Carolina and among the red men of the forest.

Yet never before has this Board had so many appeals and pressing claims upon it as at the present time.

Railroads are now penetrating almost all parts of our land, villages and towns are springing up all along their lines. And where in all time before only the beasts of the forest roamed, and the fowls of the air reveled, now immortal souls are appealing for the Gospel of Jesus whose name is the only name under Heaven, and known among men that is able to save their immortal souls.

The appeal comes up to us my Brethren to day, even now, and what answer shall we return ?

The last commission of a risen and ascended Lord, coupled with those touching appeals, speaks to us to-day in unmistakable language and bids each man and each woman in all this Association to give as our God has prepared them.

Many churches which were first built up by the assistance of this Board are now not only prosperous and flourishing churches, but are sending missionaries at their own charge into other climes to those who have not the Gospel.

Our State Board also under the wise administration of our consecrated Secretary Dr. T. M. Bailey, has during the past year done a larger work than ever before in its history, yet this Board also has increasing demands for both men and means, to enable them to fulfill our Saviours command, and bless others, as we are blessed to-day, with a living ministry, to preach that Gospel that is able to make men wise unto Salvation.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. Orme, Chairman.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your Committee beg leave to report, that the subject of Foreign Missions is so broad and extensive, that a simple report such as we are required to make, will give but little idea of the vastness of the work that is being done in this department of christian labor. When we take into consideration the number of men and women that are in this field, amount of money that it requires to sustain them annually, and the large and densely populated countries to which they have gone to carry the Gospel, we can then only form some slight conception of the immensity of the work. Our Home Missions simply comprehend the Southern States and Territories of our own Government. Our State Missions are narrowed down to the limits of only one State; but our Foreign Missions are stretching out their broad arms of christian benevolence to encompass the whole earth. The Divine Master has commanded to " go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. "Foreign Missions respond, "Lo, I come to do they will O God," "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven."

And so the glorious armies of King Emanuel are on the march to every

country under the sun. They are unfurling the banners of Christ, and planting the standard of the cross in every portion of the inhabitable world. They are tearing down the old temples and altars of the Celestial Empire, and building upon their ruins the graceful Chapels of Jesus Christ. They are preaching a free Gospel, an open Bible, and liberty of conscience throughout the wretched and superstitious dominions of Popish Italy. They are kindling the beautiful light of Heavenly Life in the dark jungles of benighted Africa, causing the miserable sons of Ethiopia to stretch out their arms to the Great Redeemer of the world. They have crossed over into the golden regions of the proud Montazumas, taming the wild Mexicans, cooling down their heated blood, and inlisting their minds and hearts in the cause of a pure and holy religion.

Nor have they forgotton the great Brazillian world, but even there, in the midst of those eternal tropics, the faithful soldiers of Jesus have gone, to open up the way of life and salvation, and to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Thus the glorious work goes on. "*This world for Jesus*," is the motto of our Foreign Mission Board. Let it be the rallying cry of us all.

But, my Brethren, this brave little army of Christ is being thinned by death. Some are quietly sleeping in foreign soil, while others are rocked in the restless bosom of the ocean. And now, shall their broken ranks be recruited, and the strength of the band increased? The Macedonian cry is coming up from every part of the world. The demand was never so great. All the nations of the earth are seeking the Saviour. O that we could catch the inspiration of our Divine Master, and give the Gospel to all the world. Dr. Tupper wants 100,000 dollars for this Conventional year. The Baptists of Alabama are requested to give 5.000 dollars of the amount, and this, when divided among the Associations leaves to our share 222 dollars. Now, shall we have it? Let us have the faith and courage to make the effort. With God to help us we can do all things.

In conclusion, we respectfully suggest, First, that we have more preaching upon this subject. Second, that we have the F. M. Journal circulated in all our families. Third, that we organize a Ladies Missionary Society in every church. And fourth, that the children in our Sunday Schools be also organized into missionary bands.

Respectfully submitted,

J. J. CLOUD, Chairman.

The Association adjourned.

Prayer by Elder F. C. Plaster.

EVENING PROCEEDINGS—3 P. M.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Elder A. Andrews.

Report on Bible and Colportage, was read and adopted.

REPORT ON BIBLE AND COLPORTAGE.

After the many well gotten up reports which have been spread upon the minutes of Conventions and Associations, it would be a work of supererogation for us to make a lengthy report. But we cannot refrain from saying, that the subject under consideration is of the first importance. The Bible cannot be estimated. Its words are pure, unadulterated, enlightening and accompanied by the agency of the Spirit-Saving power.

This cannot be said of any other book. When we examine carefully the

compositions of our fellows, we seem to get at once the intention of the writer and a second examination does not change our opinion. We see in them superfluity, deficiency and needed alteration, the author is finite.

But when we read the writings of inspired men, we feel like taking off our hats and making polite bows at every step; the author is infinite. The circulation of the Bible ought to engage the attention of all christians. Its importance demands it. Are there families destitute of the Bible in our bounds; they ought by all means to be supplied. Can God save men without the Word? We will not argue this question, his power is almighty. We don't know what he can do. But will he save men without the word? He, we answer emphatically, no. We earnestly recommend the circulation of the Bible among the destitute. We also recognize the value of the religious press in circulating religious literature both for the family and the Sabbath School, and we would urge the importance of every family taking at least one religious paper for themselves and children. We would recommend as among the best papers, and those worthy of support for the family the ALABAMA BAPTIST, now published in the bounds of this Association, at Montgomery, Alabama, and the Christian Index, published at Atlanta, Ga.

We would also report, that, the only lady colporteur in this State is in this Association; Sister Mary A. Stewart, a member of Adams Street Baptist Church. We append the report of the Corresponding Secretary of the State Mission Board, for adoption, of work done in this department the last Conventional year.

The American Baptist Publication Society has generously furnished us with Bibles and Testaments for free distribution among the destitute. A part of the collections for Bible work are turned over by the Society to our Foreign Board at Richmond to aid in the publication of translations of the Scriptures made by our Missionaries in foreign fields. Last year we showed some little appreciation of the Societys' generosity towards us. This year we hope to secure a contribution for Bible work from every Church and Sunday School in the State. Let us do our full duty in circulating "The Holy Scriptures that are able to make wise unto salvation."

During the past Conventional year twenty-six of our Missionaries carried supplies of books with them, while eight others worked exclusively as Colporteurs. The great financial depression in this country combined with the very unfavorable weather during the first three months of the present year retarded to some extent their labors. The sales amounted to 5,653 books and pamphlets, valued at $2,679.47. We cannot well over estimate the good results that flow from this department of our work A good religious book placed in a family is an ever present preacher. The work must be extended over the State. That this may be done, it is important that subscriptions to "Permanent Colportage Fund" not yet completed, be paid up as soon as possible. All honor to the Sunday Schools, Churches and Associations that have given us these funds. We hope that others will follow their example.

Respectfully submitted,
A. E. COUPEE, Chairman.

Committee on Nominations—Report, Elder W. M. Wamboldt, to preach the Introductory, Elder F. C. Waite, alternate. Dr. M. B. Wharton, to preach the Missionary Sermon on Sabbath, Elder J. W. Orme, alternate.
G. W. ELLIS, Chairman.

The Committee on Documents and requests submitted the following Digest of the Church Letters, to-wit:

Adam St. Montgomery—Has decreased somewhat in numbers, but are

spiritually alive ; at present the church is growing ; the prayer meeting held every Wednesday night is well attended and interesting ; reports 2 baptisms. Has a well attended Sunday School, and a Teachers meeting, Rev. M. M. Wamboldt became pastor on 1st July.

Bethany—Has decreased one in membership ; has a good Sunday School.

Bethesda—Had a meeting in which Bro. F. C. Waite aided, resulting in three baptisms.

Deatsville—Rev. Washington Wilkes, held a meeting with the church, the pastor being away by reason of serious illness of his wife. Weekly prayer meetings are held, and a Sunday School, but both lack interest. This church has suffered apparently by the enforced absence of its pastor ; reports one baptism.

Elim—No letter, no delegate.

First Baptist Church, Montgomery—Dr. M. B. Wharton entered upon the pastorate of the Church in December. During the year a fine meeting was held, in which Bro. G. C. Needham and H. M. Wharton, aided the pastor, and during the meeting 103 were added to the church. The weekly prayer meeting is well attended and so is the Sunday School. This Church shows a net gain of 118 and 86 baptisms. The Southern Baptist Convention will meet with this church in May, 1886. Bro. Wm. B. Davidson, was ordained deacon in May. Bro. C. E. Nash, preached for two months during the summer. Has a Ladies Missionary Society, a Young Ladies Working Circle, and a Young People's Meeting.

Friendship, Elmore Co.—Has grown from 18 to 39 during the year under the ministry of J. H. Norton ; asks for a letter to join Tallapoosa River Association. Has a prayer meeting and Sunday School.

Friendship, Montgomery Co.—Joins at this session, with a letter from Salem Association ; has a Sunday School with 40 members, and a prayer meeting held twice a week. Brother J. C. McLendon was ordained to the full work of the ministry in August. Reports 37 baptisms.

Liberty—No letter, no delegates.

Mt. Hebron—Reports a loss of two. Has neither prayer meeting nor Sunday School.

Mt. Lebanon—Has ordained as deacon Brother Benjamin Jones. Reports 7 baptisms, invites the next session of the Association.

Mt. Zion—Reports 1 baptism, and total membership 15.

Philadelphia—No letter, no delegates.

Pine Level—Reports 3 baptisms. Has a flourishing Sabbath School, and a well attended prayer meeting; Brother B. M. Bean, has been the pastor for this year, and conducted a meeting for several days ; the church has not yet called a paster for ensuing year.

Ramer—Has a weekly Sabbath School, reports 2 additions by letter.

Salem—No letter, no delegate.

Unity—Reports 1 baptism, has a weekly Sabbath School, and a weekly

prayer meeting, a Ladies Missionary Society and a Juvenile Missionary Society.

Union—No letter, no delegate.

Wetumpka—Reports a net loss of two; has a Sabbath School meeting weekly which was well attended.

We find 160 baptisms reported; 6 prayer meetings; and 10 Sunday Schools,. We recommend that the letter asked for by Friendship Church, Elmore County be granted, that she may unite with Tallapoosa River Association.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. A. DAVIS, Chairman.

Letter of dismission was granted Friendship Church, Elmore County.

REPORT ON TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING.

We, your Committee recommend Deatsville Elmore County, Ala., to commence Friday, 11 A. M. before first Sabbath in November, 1886. The Introductory Sermon to be preached at the opening of the Session.

W. P. DAWSON, Chairman.

Adopted Report of Committee on Finance, with Treasurers Report.

TREASURER'S REPORT 1884.

J. H. DICKSON, Treasurer of Montgomery Association.

DR:

To E. J. Harris, vouchers		$879 36
" Cash		188 15
		$1067 51

CR.

By J. I. Lamar, Minute money		31 90
T. M. Bailey, old vouchers		879 36
" State Missions		86 20
" Home Missions		19 60
" Indian Missions		1 65
" Foreign Missions		22 20
" Ministerial Education		25 00
" Colored People		1 60
		$1067 51

J. H. DICKSON, Treasurer.

Ordered, that $25.00 of the Minute fund be appropriated for printing and distributing the Minutes, and the balance paid to Clerk for his services.

Report on Education was read and discussed, then adopted.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Your Committee deem it unnecessary to present arguments in favor of

Education at this day and time, when all agree that it is a thing most favorable to the well being of society, and the furtherance of the cause of Christ. What we want to insist upon is, that our Denominational Colleges should be sustained with our sympathies, patronage and contributions. We must guard well the fountains of learning, or poluting streams will go forth to poison and ruin, those whom it is the design of education to benefit. Howard College, stands proudly forth as the peer of any institution in the land, as possessing some peculiar, and most useful advantages. The Baptist of Alabama, should second the efforts of the noble President of Howard College, who is running the institution for the sake of merit, without the benefit of endowment or patronage from the State. We recommend most earnestly, the endowment of this College, so that its faculty may be better paid, and its appliances increased. We are pleased to note that it keeps up its high standard, and great prosperity. We urge all the churches to contribute forthwith to the Ministerial Students Fund, there being over thirty applicants for support by this means.

We are pleased to recognize in our midst, the presence of President Robert Frazer, of the Judson Institute, that noble *alma mater* of so many hundred of the best, and most cultivated ladies of the land. This Institution is so well established, and its great merits so well understood that words of commendation are useless. We call attention also, to the Alabama Central Female College, at Tuscaloosa, over which Dr. G. W. Thomas, a former member of this Association presides. We feel that the Baptist of the whole State should rally to the support of this Institution which has property that cost about $200,000 dollars, which will pass out of the hands of Baptists, in case of the failure of the Female College there. Dr. Thomas has thoroughly renovated and refitted the buildings, and with an excellent faculty is prepared to furnish the best instruction to young ladies of the land.

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, located at Louisville, Ky., educating annually, about one hundred young Ministers, is greatly in need of funds to complete the endowment, to support indigent students there, and to erect permanent buildings for the Seminary. The Board of Trustees is now in session at Louisville, Ky., devising ways and means to erect buildings, and we invoke the blessing of God upon their labors, and promise to give all the assistance in our power. We trust that each church in this Association will bear in mind the points referred to in this report, and do something the next Associational year, for the work prosecuted by the aforesaid Institutions.

M. B. WHARTON, Chairman.

Appointed the following Committees to report at the next Session :

On Foreign Missions—M. B Wharton, M. B. Davidson, J. F. Robertson, J. Bullock, W. M. Franks.

On Home and State Missions—J. J. Cloud, S. F. Lacy, W. M. Loften, R. James, W. G. Warrel.

On Sabbath Schools—J. H. Dickson, W. R. Waller, E. J. Harris, J. R. McLendon, J. G. Jones.

On Temperance—J. I. Lamar, M. A. Pyron, J. Hogan, J. D. Wright, D J. Moore.

On Education—M M. Wamboldt, W. A. Davis, G. D. Burks, W. L. Chandler, B. Tatum, A. E. Coupee.

Bible and Colportage—J. W. Orme, W. P. Dawson, W. G. Sullivant, G. W. Harrington, J. T. Boyd.

Indigent Ministers—F. C. Waite, W. Gamble, J. S. Turner, T. L. Jones, W. M. Nalls.

Executive Board—J. W. Orme, W. A. Davis, W. G Worrel.

Adjourned until 7:30 P. M. Prayer by Elder M. M. Wamboldt.

NIGHT'S PROCEEDINGS—7:30 P. M.

Met and Resumed business. Prayer by Elder W. H. Barnett.

Report on Temperance was read, and after discussion was adopted.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

It is with profound gratitude that your Committee can report, that the cause of Temperance is taking a high and permanent stand, both local and national. Its advocates have labored earnestly and long, and their arguments are undeniable, that intoxicants are useless, and brings misery, degredation and bankruptcy to our people.

As the question of legal interference has been settled, we hail with gladness the new dawn upon the great cause, such as never opened before. The local option laws have done great good, in driving the traffic of ardent spirits from our midst, which is very gratifying to us.

Such being the case, we should labor earnestly to get our Legislatures to enact laws that will banish the manufacture and sale of it from our land.

Let the churches and trustees of high schools take a decided stand against its use, and sale, and much good will result. We as a denomination need no prompting, our duties are plain. Then let us do our duty, and save the youths of our country from degridation, pauperism, and drunkenness, and our own gray hairs from being brought in disgrace to the grave. Let us as Baptists, see that the teaching of the Scriptures are rigidly enforced in our midst, and a great deal may be accomplished.

For we are taught that no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of Heaven. While great good has been accomplished, much remains to be done

Then let all Christians labor faithfully in the good work, and the great day of deliverance will surely dawn.

E. J. HARRIS, Chairman.

On motion, rescinded the resolution appended to the Report on Temperance, last session.

REPORT ON INDIGENT MINISTERS.

The help that was extended last Conventional year, to the twenty-one Indigent Ministers and nine widows of deceased Ministers, was very greatly appreciated. The servants of our Master, who have toiled in his cause, must not be allowed to suffer when health fails or old age is upon them.

The families of those who have fallen at the post of duty must not be neglected. They are dear to God, and they should be so to his people. It is proposed to raise in our own State this year, $1.000 for this praise worthy object—of this amount our Association is asked to give $52.15. Let collections be taken up in all our churches for this purpose.

L. NICKEL, Chairman.

Report on Sabbath Schools, read and adopted.

REBORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The number of schools reported by the churches, 10; Teachers, 37; Scholars 553; amount contributed.—

We are glad to report that most of our churches have Sabbath Schools, and they are generally in a healthy condition. We are aware of the difficulties in keeping up schools in the country, and that it requires no small amount of sacrifice, as well as God's grace. Yet we believe, that no church can afford to do without this element of spiritual power. Every church that has a school, is more than repaid for their efforts, by the spiritual development of its members, and their own individual growth in grace, to say nothing of the good work done among the children.

We would therefore recommend, that every church be urged to keep up a Subbath School, and that the children be taught to attend regular preaching also. For if the preaching of the gospel be God's plan to save the world shall we deprive our children of this means of grace? We would also recommend that each pastor have special services of preaching for the children occasionally, Also, that there be a special collection taken up in every school, at least once a quarter for Missions, that we may teach our children benevolence. We would also recommend that a Sunday School Mass Meeting be held every 5th Sabbath within the bounds of this Association, and that a Committee be appointed at each meeting to select the place, and arrange programme for the next. We would suggest, that instead of the speakers being appointed, that some minister be appointed to preach upon some topic appropriate to Sunday School work, and then the subject be submitted to the meeting for discussion.

Respectfully snbmitted,

F. C. WAITE, Chairman.

Ordered, that any member of a church in this Association attending any other Association shall be considered our correspondent.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, First. That this Association accept its proportional part of the funds recommended and endeavor to raise it during the year.

Resolved, Second. That all collections for this purpose be forwarded through the State Board.

Resolved, That this Association tender their gratitude to this Church and community for their generous hospitality shown this body during its session, and to the choir for its splendid music.

The Association then adjourned to meet with Deatsville Church, Friday, before the first Sabbath in November, 1886. Prayer by Elder M. M. Wamboldt.

B. A. JACKSON, Moderator, Ramah Ala.

J. I. LAMAR, Clerk, Deatsville, Ala.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

Churches.	Pastors.	Clerks.	Post Of'ce.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Dism'd by lett'r	Deceased.	Excluded.	Number of Members.	Increase.	Decrease.	Prayer Meetings.	Sabbath Schools.	Teachers.	Pupils.	Sabbath Meeting.
First, Montgomery.	M. B. Wharton, D. D.	W. A. Davis....	Montgomery	86	70	4	33	6	3	508	118	..	W.	W.	32	300	E. S.
Adams Street.....	M. M. Wamboldt....	G. B. Burks.....	Montgomery	2	5	2	19	4	4	151	...	20	W.	W.	18	220	E. S.
Bethesda.....	F. C. Waite.....	J. T. Boyd	Ada	3	2	..	..	..	1	38	2	..	..	..	..	....	1
Pine Level	B. M. Bean	J. D. Dickson...	Pine Level..	3	4	..	3	1	1	95	2	..	W.	W.	8	100	4
Mt. Lebanon.....	B. A. Jackson.....	W. T. Neblet...	Woodley....	7	...	2	10	1	1	44	...	..	..	..	..	..	4
Ramah	B. A. Jackson.....	W. M. Rushton	Ramah	....	2	..	..	..	..	76	...	.	..	W.	3	35	2
Salem	.....	.....	.....	....	...	..	..	..	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	....	.....
Bethany	J. Faulkner.....	J. S. Turner.....	Ware.....	...	...	..	..	..	1	35	...	..	..	W.	..	....	3
Wetumpka	J. J. Cloud.....	S. F. Lacy	Wetumpka...	1	2	..	4	..	..	59	..	2		W.	..	....	1–3
Deatsville.....	J. L. Thompson.....	W. M. Loftin...	Deatsville...	1	6		..	2	1	47	...	3	W.	W.	..	...	2
Mt. Hebron.....	J. M. Johnson.....	J. Hogan	Elmore.....	...	...	..	..	1	..	30	...	1	..	..	..	...	4
Unity	J. J. Cloud.....	H. F. Smith.....	Prattville....	1	6	..	7	..	.	53	..	.	W.	W.	8	58	4
Friends'p, El'ore co.	J. H Norton.....	J. M. Stroud....	Tallassee....	18	....	..	..	..	..	39	..	..	W.	W.	..	....	.....
Mt. Zion.....	B. A. Jackson.....	J. G. Mills.....	.. ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	15	...	.	....	...	..	....	3
Philadelphia.... ..	W. C. Avant.....	G. T. Edwards .	Arcadia.....	..	....	..	..	..	.	27	..	..	....	...	.	....	2
Friends'p, Mont. co.	J. C. McLendon.....	F. M. Sullivant.	Raif Branch.	37	8	1	2	1	..	82	43	..	W.	W.	..	40	3
Elam.	.....	.....	Montgomery	...	...	.	..	..	..	12	..	.	....	...	..	...	.....
Total.....	.....			160	106	9	78	16	12	1325	165	26	.	...	69	753	....

CHURCHES.	Minutes.	Cash—State. Missions.	Vouchers—State Missions.	Cash—Home Missions.	Vouch'rs—Home Missions.	Cash—Foreign Missions.	Vouchers—Foreign Missions.	Vouchers—Undesignated.	Vouchers—Indigent Ministers.	Cash—Ministerial Education.	Vouchers—Ministerial Educat'n.	Cash—Church Building.	Voucher—Chur'h Building.	Total.
First Montgomery	5 00							241 65			205 00		10 00	461 65
Adams Street	5 00	13 33	6 90	1 38	2 87	1 37	2 88						5 00	38 73
Bethesda			8 20										5 00	13 20
Pine Level	2 50		9 40							4 25	20 50		5 00	41 65
Mt. Lebanon	1 50	6 50	9 30								10 00		5 00	32 30
Ramah	2 00	2 00	5 80		1 00		1 00		1 00		10 00	5 00	5 00	32 80
Salem	1 00	5 00	5 00											11 00
Bethany	1 00	10 00		5 00		5 00								21 00
Wetumpka														
Deatsville	2 00	1 00	3 00				3 00				4 00			14 00
Mt. Hebron	1 00	4 00												5 00
Unity	1 25	30 80	38 35											70 40
Friendship (Elmore county)	1 25	3 00												4 25
Mt. Zion	1 50		3 75								5 00		2 50	12 75
Philadelphia	1 00	2 50												3 50
Friendship (Montgomery county)	2 00	4 75	5 20											11 95
Sabbath col. Missions														13 00
Cash for Minutes	8 00													8 00
Total cash														150 38
Total vouchers														610 30
Totals	36 00	82 88	94 90	6 38	3 87	6 37	6 88	241 65	1 00	4 25	254 50	5 00	37 50	
Grand total														794 18

NOTE.—No funds reported from Wetumpka Church.

E. J. HARRIS, Chairman.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

MONTGOMERY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE I. This union of churchs shall be known and distinguished by the style and title of the Montgomery Baptist Association.

II. This Association shall be composed of representatives from the churches in union.

Each church shall be entitled to three delegates, and for every additional twenty-five members above the first hundred, shall be entitled to an additional delegate; but in the business of the Association, whenever the delegates from any church of the body shall request it, the vote shall be taken by churches, and in that event each church shall be entitled to three votes.

III. The delegates, when convened shall organize themselves into a deliberative body, by the appointment of a Moderator and Clerk; these officers shall be chosen by ballot, at each annual meeting, and continue in office until new ones are chosen.

Should any event transpire so as to prevent an annual meeting of this Association, the Moderator shall have the power to call a meeting at any time or place; which meeting, when convened, shall have all the rights of a regular annual meeting.

IV. This Association shall not interfere with the rights of the churches of which she is composed. She shall regard them as independent bodies in all measures of internal government, and shall only act as an advisory council; assuming no authority but what is expressly delegated to her by the churches, or evidently implied by the very nature of the compact. She nevertheless claims authority over her own members, the delegates of the churches, and in justice and propriety must have power to withdraw from and disown all churches that depart from the principles of this compact, by becoming heterodox in faith or disorderly in practice. She should, therefore, regard all the churches, united under the constitution, with a vigilant eye for good. Her principal business shall be to promote the declarative glory of God, by extending his kingdom of grace on earth, through the medium of preaching the Gospel, and other means, in accordance with that Gospel; to cultivate union and fellowship with all the churches of Christ, and especially with those united in this Association.

V. Newly constituted churches dismissed from other Associations, of the same faith and order, may be admitted into this union, on their sending up delegates to an annual meeting, with a petition and by those delegates agreeing to the abstract of principles adopted by this Association.

VI. The churches in this union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association written communications specifying the names of the delegates, number in fellowship, baptised, received by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored, deceased since last session, and all other information which churches may deem of importance, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

VII. This Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary con-

tributions of the churches, and all monies thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches and paid over through the Committee on Finance to the Treasurer, who shall be elected by ballot, and hold his office during the pleasure of the Association. He shall receive and manage the funds according to the order of the Association, and present annually, for insertion in the Minutes, a clear and full statement of all receipts and expenditures.

VIII. This Association shall furnish the churches with the Minutes of every session.

IX. This Association shall take cognizance of no query sent up from the churches unless they have endeavored to solve the same and have failed, nor of any difficulty between churches, unless they have pursued the directions contained in the XVIII chapter of Matthew, and have not been able to settle them; then the Association shall take such matters into consideration and act upon them at her discretion.

X. It shall be the duty of the clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of printed Minutes of every session of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

XI. This Association, when convened, shall be governed by proper rules of decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

XII. This constitution may be altered or amended at a regular meeting of the Association, by a concurring voice of two-thirds of the members present; provided, such alteration or amendment be approved by a majority of the churches.

RULES OF ORDER.

FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS, AND DECORUM IN DEBATE, IN THE

MONTGOMERY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

---

1. At every annual meeting of this Association, immediately after the delegates names are enrolled, tellers shall be appointed by the chair, and the Association shall proceed to choose from among their number a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who are to hold their offices until new ones are chosen.

2. The Moderator shall take the chair every day at the hour to which the Association shall have adjourned on the preceding day; shall immediately call the members to order, and on the appearance of a quorum shall cause the minutes of the preceding day to be read.

3 He shall preserve order and decorum; may speak on points of order in preference to other members, rising from his seat for that purpose; and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Association, by any two members, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once unless by leave of the Association,

4. He shall rise to put a question, but may state it sitting.

5. Questions shall be distinctly put; those voting in the affirmative shall say aye, and those of a contrary opinion no. If the Moderator doubts, or a division be called for, the delegates shall divide; those voting in the affirmative shall first arise from their seats, and afterwards those voting in the negative.

6. The Moderator shall appoint all committees, unless otherwise specially directed by the Association.

7. In all cases of election, the Moderator may vote ; in other cases, he shall not vote, unless the body be equally divided ; in that event he shall give the casting vote. He may speak on any question, provided he shall call some other member to the chair while he is speaking.

8. The Clerk shall enroll the names of the delegates minute the proceedings of the body, and perform such other duties as the Association may direct.

9. The Treasurer shall receive, account for and pay out all monies belonging to this body, accordiug to the instructions of the Association, and perform such other duties as the Association may direct.

10. When any member is about to speak or deliver any matter to the Association, he shall rise from his seat and respectfully address the Moderator, and shall confine himself to the question under debate and avoid personalities.

11. If any member, in speaking or otherwise, transgress the rules of the Association, the Moderator shall, or any member may, call him to order ; in which case the member so called to order shall immediately sit dowu unless permitted to explain ; and the Association shall, if appealed to, decide on the case, but without debate. If there be no appeal, the decision of the Chair shall be submitted to ; if the decision be in favor of the member called to order he shall be at liberty to proceed ; if otherwise he shall not be permitted to proceed, in case any member object, without leave of the Association.

12. When two or more members happen to rise at once the Moderator shall name the one who is to speak first.

13. No member shall speak more than once to the same question without leave of the Association, unless he be the mover, proposer or introducer of the matter pending, in which case he shall be permitted to speak in reply, but not until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken.

14. Every member who shall be in the house when a question is put shall give his vote, unless the Association, for special reason excuse him.

15. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Chair ; or, being in writing, it shall be handed to the Moderator, and read aloud before debated.

16. Every motion shall be reduced to writing, if the Chair or any member desire it.

17. After a motion is stated by the Chair, or read aloud by the Clerk, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the body, but may be withdrawn, by leave of the Association, at any time before a decision or amendment.

18. When a question is under debate no motion shall be entertained but to adjourn, to lie on the table, for previous question, to postpone to a day certain, commit, amend, to postpone indefinitely ; which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged and no motion to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or postpone indefinitely, being decided, shall again be allowed during the session.

19. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, except the Association be engaged in voting.

20. A motion to lay on the table shall be taken without debate ; and shall always be in order, except a member be speaking, or the body engaged in voting.

21. On a previous question there shall be no debate. All incidental questions of order arising after the motion is made for the previous question, and pending such motion shall be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

22. The previous question shall be in this form : Shall the main question be now put ? It shall only be admitted when demanded by a majority of the members present ; its effect shall be to pnt an end to all debate, and bring the Association to a direct vote upon amendments reported by committee, if any : upon pending amendments, and then upon the main question.

23. No motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment.

24. When a motion has been once made and carried, in the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order for any member of the majority to move a reconsideration thereof, on the same or succeeding business day, and such motion shall take precedence of all other questions, except a motion to adjourn.

25. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave of the Moderator ; or leave the meeting without leave of the Association.

26. Should any member of this Association absent himself before the close of the session, without permission of the body, he shall be marked in the Minutes as absent without leave.

DECLARATION OF FAITH.

OF THE

MONTGOMERY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

I. Of the Scriptures.—We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true centre of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

II. Of the True God—That there is one, and only one, true and living God, whose name is JEHOVAH; the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness; worthy of all confidence and love; revealed under the personal and relative distinctions of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III. Of the Fall of Man—That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgressions fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are sinners, not by constraint but choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan, and of their own sinful passions; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

IV. Of the Way of Salvation—That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial office of the Son of God, who took on Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the law by His personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins by His death; being risen from the dead He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Saviour.

V. Of Justification—That the great Gospel blessing, which Christ or His fulness bestows on such as believe in Him, is justification; and justification consists in the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness ; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any work of righteousness which we have done, but solely through His own redemption and righteouness; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

VI. Of the Freeness of Salvation—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by cordial and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit the Lord Jesus Christ, which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation.

VII. Of Grace in Regeneration—That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit we bring forth to the glory of God.

VIII. Of God's Purpose of Grace—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that, being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God and active imitation of His free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe the Gospel; is the foundation of Christian assurance, and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

IX. Of the Perseverance of Saints—That such only are real believers as endure to the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial profession, that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

X. Harmony of the Law and Gospel—That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good; that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them, through a Mediator, to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XI. Of a Gospel Church—That a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptised believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by his word, that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

XII. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper—That Christian Baptism is the immersion of a believer, in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our *faith* in a crucified and risen Saviour, with its purifying power; and that it is a prerequisite to the relatives of a church relation and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate

together the dying love of Christ preceded always by solemn self-examination.

XIII. Of the Christian Sabbath—That the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest which remaineth for the people of God.

XIV. Of Civil Government.—That civil government is of Divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society, and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and Prince of the Kings of the earth.

XV. Of the Righteous and the Wicked.—That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked ; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in his esteem ; while all such as continue in impotence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse ; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVI. Of the World to Come.—That the end of this world is approaching : that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from the grave for final retribution ; that a solemn separation will then take place ; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy ; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven on hell, or principles of righteousness.

THE ALABAMA BAPTIST

IS THE ORGAN OF THE

BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.

THERE is no more important interest fostered by the denomination than this paper. It ought to be read in every Baptist family in Alabama. This is not asking too much.

Having removed to Montgomery, the capital of the State, the publishers hope to deserve more than ever the support of the denomination.

SUBSCRIPTION—$2.00 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

☞ We will pay a commission to agents soliciting subscriptions in any Church or Association.

John G. Harris
—AND—
Wm. A. Davis, } Editors and Proprietors.

SAMUEL HENDERSON, D. D., Associate Editor.

We are prepared to do all kinds of

Job Printing, Ruling and Binding,

AND INVITE YOUR WORK IN THE LINE OF

MINUTES, LETTER HEADS, BLANK BOOKS, &c.

ADDRESS ALL ORDERS TO

THE ALABAMA BAPTIST,
Montgomery, Ala.